

WILLIAM DAVIS

William Davis was born January 2, 1830, in Wilsford, Wiltshire, England, on a farm and became an expert plowman, taking many prizes at plowing matches. He married Elizabeth Hope about 1854, near where they were both born and reared. He was baptized February 2, 1852, by Elder George Stone (and probably Elizabeth, too), near their birth place.

In 1864 they made arrangements to sail from Liverpool on the sailing ship "Hudson," in the latter part of May, with their four children. The date of sailing was postponed a few days so the family, having disposed of their household goods, went to visit with Elizabeth's parents until the ship sailed. While there, their youngest child was taken ill and died on the 29th of May. The family had to be in Liverpool the next day, so had to leave without having the privilege of attending the funeral of their little one. It was a severe trial to leave, but the sailing ship would leave them if they were not there. The boat sailed May 31, 1864. They were on the Atlantic ocean six weeks and a few days, landing at New York on July 19.

From New York they went to the village of Wyoming, which is on the Missouri River. There they were met by ox teams and wagons sent from Utah to bring the emigrants across the plains to Utah.

A few days after starting, Elizabeth and her little son Moroni, six years old, became seriously ill with dysentery. While William was doing all he could to help and comfort his wife, his little son called in a weak voice, "Daddy, daddy." William went to him and learned he wanted soup. He promised to get some and turned back to his wife, who was dying. He begged her to try to live and prayed to the Lord to spare her, but she passed away. He turned to go to his little boy and get some soup for him, but he was too late. The sisters came to do what they could. He had to bury them by the side of the road, without coffins and little time for ceremonies.

When they finally arrived in Utah, their Uncle William Hail Stone, who had been in Utah some years, met them in Echo Canyon and brought them to the Hailstone ranch, where he made his home many years.

On April 10, 1865, William Davis married Mary Goddard Colind, in the Endowment House. She had lost her husband on the plains in 1864. She made a splendid stepmother to William's two remaining children. His son was drowned three years after their arrival, while trying to cross high water in the Provo River in a wagon.

Their ranch home was by the side of the road and anyone who needed help or food were always made welcome at the Davis ranch. William and Mary Goddard Colind Davis reared a family of four sons and two daughters.

William Davis acted as Presiding Elder at Elkhorn for some years, also the office of a High Priest. In 1866 and 1867 he took part in the Black Hawk War.

He was called to pass through severe trials, but he kept jovial and cheerful as long as he lived and his faith in God never faltered.

327

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327



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